

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1-4 and 6-9, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended, and Claims 6-9 have been added herein.

Basis for added Claims 6-8 is found at page 12, lines 7-25 of the specification. Basis for added Claim 9 is found at page 12, line 30 of the specification. Basis for the amendment to (f) of Claim 1 is found at page 12, lines 7-25 of the specification.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Claim 4 has been amended herein to more clearly recite the formation of the molded article from a reaction mixture according to Claim 1.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which they regard as their invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 926 173 A1 (**Ghesquiere et al**). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Ghesquiere et al discloses charging a mold with an isocyanate prepolymer, an organic polyol and a mold-release agent which comprises at least one diester having a total of 24 to 52 carbon atoms, e.g., diisotridecyl adipate. See the SciFinder abstract, and paragraph [0007] on page 2 of the English language translation of Ghesquiere et al (included herewith in the appendix).

The ester of a polybasic carboxylic acid (f)(ii) of Applicants' claimed reaction mixture includes diesters having at most 20 carbon atoms (e.g., diphenyl phthalate).

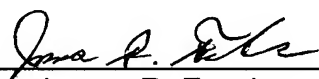
Ghesquiere et al does not disclose the use of a diester of a dimeric diacid which contains less than 24 total carbon atoms. In addition, Ghesquiere et al does not disclose the use of esters of polybasic carboxylic acids having more than two carboxylic acid groups (e.g., citric acid, trimellitic acid and pyromellitic acid). In particular, Ghesquiere et al does not disclose the use of an ester of a polybasic carboxylic acid which: contains a residue of a polybasic carboxylic acid selected

carboxylic acid which: contains a residue of a polybasic carboxylic acid selected from oxalic acid, malonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, citric acid, phthalic acid, trimellitic acid and pyromellitic acid; and contains alcohol residues selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, iso-propanol, n- butanol, i- butanol, tert.-butanol and phenol.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to be unanticipated by and patentable over Ghesquiere et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Further, Applicants' claims are deemed to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

English language translation of EP 0 926 173 A1